



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 27, 2011

The Honorable Ken Bennett  
Secretary of State  
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2700 (Arizona centennial statehood day)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2700 (Arizona centennial statehood day). The bill established February 14, 2012 (and each centenary thereafter) as an 11<sup>th</sup> paid holiday for state employees in honor of Arizona's Centennial.

Shutting down a large portion of state government operations in order to celebrate Arizona's Centennial sends the wrong message to Arizona taxpayers. For the vast majority of Arizonans, February 14, 2012 will be a regular work and school day. Federal and local government offices and schools will most likely be open. Regardless of the legitimate celebratory nature of the day, it does not make sense to tell the public that state government offices are closed while the rest of Arizona is open for business.

My veto does not signify any lack of support for our state employees and their families in these times of economic and state budget difficulties. I appreciate the dedication shown by state employees, particularly amidst the budget cuts and salary reductions.

I believe we can celebrate Arizona Centennial Statehood Day and also serve the public by having state offices open for business. In fact, it is appropriate that we do just that.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kirk Adams  
The Honorable Russell Pearce  
The Honorable J.D. Mesnard  
Senate Secretary  
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Arizona News Service